

REMARKS

No new matter is introduced by this preliminary amendment. The claims have not been amended. The specification has been amended to identify two issued U.S. patents to which this application is related. In light of the above, early consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

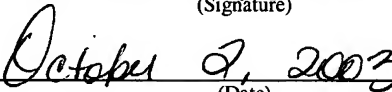
October 2, 2003

(Date of Transmission)

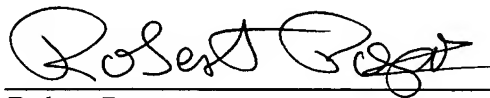
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Respectfully submitted,



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